

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINGST 07631 192117Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 HA-05 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00
XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /093 W
-----099760 200310Z /70

R 192000Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8814
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 7631

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, JM, CU
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER SPEAKS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: PRIME MINISTER MICHAEL MANLEY MADE TWO STATEMENTS LAST WEEK CLEARLY INTENDED TO PROJECT AN IMAGE OF GROWING CONFIDENCE AND OPTIMISM ON THE PART OF HIS PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY (PNP) GOVERNMENT. THE FIRST STATEMENT, WHICH DEALT LARGELY WITH ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, WAS READ IN PARLIAMENT FOR THE PRIME MINISTER ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13 BY THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE, DR. KENNETH MCNEILL. IN THE STATEMENT, THE PRIME MINISTER ACKNOWLEDGED THE DEPTH OF JAMAICA'S ECONOMIC CRISIS BUT SAID THAT THE OPERATIONS OF THE EMERGENCY PRODUCTION PLAN HAD, OVER ITS SHORT LIFE, REVEALED A "SELF-GENERATING DYNAMIC" WHICH WILL IN TIME CARRY THE ECONOMY WITH IT. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THERE WERE A NUMBER OF INDICATORS WHICH OFFER SCOPE FOR OPTIMISM. THE TRADE GAP HAD BEEN REDUCED FROM A MINUS \$201 MILLION IN JANUARY-SEPTEMBER, 1976 TO A MINUS \$16 MILLION FOR THE SAME PERIOD IN 1977. IMPORT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KINGST 07631 192117Z

LICENSES OVER THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1977 HAD BEEN HELD TO \$790.97 MILLION IN CONTRAST TO THE \$875.54 MILLION ISSUED IN THE SAME PERIOD IN 1976. THE PRIME MINISTER THEN NOTED THE INCREASES IN A VARIETY OF JAMAICAN EXPORTS. MANLEY ALSO POINTED TO INCREASES IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND HOPES FOR TOURISM. HE ACKNOWLEDGED A FEW DRY SPOTS -- A SHORTFALL IN CONSTRUCTION STARTS

AND IN BAUXITE EXPORTS AS WELL AS THE CONTINUING PROBLEM OF UNEMPLOYMENT -- BUT, ON OVERWHELMING BALANCE, STRUCK AN OPTIMISTIC NOTE.

2. THE SECOND SPEECH, RECORDED FOR RADIO DELIVERY ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15 WHILE THE PRIME MINISTER WAS IN THE UNITED STATES, WAS A MORE GENERAL REVIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE ITS RETURN TO POWER A YEAR AGO. HE TOLD HIS AUDIENCE THAT THE CHOICE LAST YEAR LAY BETWEEN THOSE -- THE JAMAICA LABOUR PARTY (JLP) -- WHO ARGUED THAT JAMAICA IS TOO SMALL, TOO WEAK AND TOO ILL-PREPARED FOR COMPLETE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SOVEREIGNTY AND THOSE -- THE VICTORIOUS PNP -- WHO ASSERTED JAMAICA'S READINESS FOR THIRD WORLD LEADERSHIP, "DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST DEVELOPMENT" AND ITS ABILITY TO SET OUT ON "THE PATH OF TRUE NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE". HE THEN SPOKE OF THE PROBLEM OF CRIME AND THE SEVERAL STEPS TAKEN TO BRING IT UNDER CONTROL, INCLUDING "THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE HOME GUARD" WITH CUBAN ASSISTANCE (SEE KINGSTON 7409). THE CONTINUING CONCERN WITH UNEMPLOYMENT AND ITS HIGH SOCIAL COSTS WAS GIVEN SPECIAL STRESS. BUT THEN THE PRIME MINISTER TURNED TO THE GOVERNMENT'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS: CREATION OF THE STATE TRADING CORPORATION, INCREASED PROTECTION FOR WORKERS, AND THE EMERGING BENEFITS OF THE THIRD WORLD ROLE. REGARDING

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KINGST 07631 192117Z

THIS LATTER FACTOR, THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF MEXICAN, VENEZUELAN AND JAMAICAN COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ALUMINA, AND THE RECENT AGREEMENT BY THE MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL BAUXITE ASSOCIATION "GUARANTEEING A MINIMUM PRICE FOR THE SUPPLY OF BAUXITE TO NORTH AMERICA". MANLEY PROJECTED THE LATTER AS A PART OF JAMAICA'S LARGER OBJECTIVE OF PROMOTING A NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. HE THEN CLOSED WITH A CALL FOR DISCIPLINE AND UNITY TO INSURE THAT JAMAICA REMAINS ON ITS PRESENT "PROGRESSIVE, DEMOCRATIC, SELF-RELIANT AND PATRIOTIC PATH." END

UNCLASSIFIED.

3. COMMENT: THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECHES WERE ESSENTIALLY UPBEAT BOILERPLATE. THEY PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE ATTRACTED PARTICULAR ATTENTION EXCEPT FOR TWO FACTORS. FIRST, IN THE DECEMBER 13 ADDRESS, THE PRIME MINISTER USED FAULTY FIGURES IN ASSESSING THE GROWTH OF EXPORTS -- AN APPARENT PIECE OF VERY SLOVENLY STAFF WORK -- AND WAS ALSO UNUSUALLY SELECTIVE IN THE CHOICE OF EXPORTS WHICH WERE MENTIONED. AS A RESULT, THE PICTURE HE OFFERED WAS FAR ROSIER THAN

THE FACTS PERMIT. SECOND, IN HIS DECEMBER 15 SPEECH, THE PRIME MINISTER MENTIONED THE DECISION TO PLACE NEW EMPHASIS ON THE HOME GUARD AND THE CUBAN OFFER OF ASSISTANCE. HOWEVER, THE TEXT OF THE SPEECH RELEASED BY THE AGENCY FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION (API) DID NOT CARRY THE REFERENCE TO THE HOME GUARD OR CUBAN TRAINING. AS A RESULT OF BOTH FACTORS, THE PRIME MINISTER HAS GIVEN HIS CRITICS FRESH AMMUNITION AND HAS HIMSELF DIMINISHED THE IMPACT OF BOTH SPEECHES.
DORRANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIME MINISTER, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KINGST07631
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770473-0204
Format: TEL
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771241/aaaabipb.tel
Line Count: 126
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b61b0601-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 188823
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIME MINISTER SPEAKS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, JM, CU, (MANLEY, MICHAEL N)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b61b0601-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009